

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

FEBRUARY 1942



Vol. 87, No. 2



The Hope of the World

TRANSLATION

Gratitude

The world of 1942 is possibly more war-ridden than any in the history of the race. But the Bible is better known also than in any former year of history. Its possession brings joy unspeakable to hands that grope in darkness

THROUGH the Society's Emergency Fund as well as through its regular channels the hunger for God's Word is being met in many widely scattered points across the world (see map on pages 24 and 25). We quote here a few of the words of gratitude from grateful recipients.

Chaplain Jack N. C. Holland, of the Royal Navy H.M.S. *Formidable*, received one hundred copies of the New Testament through Chaplain R. L. Lewis (U.S.N.), while the great British ship was stationed at the Norfolk Navy Yard. Chaplain Holland writes to Dr. Cropp:

I would be grateful if you would convey my very hearty thanks to the Society for this gift. . . . Unfortunately, I was quite unable to obtain a supply from England before we left last year, and this has been the first chance I've had of filling a gap I know has been felt by many on board, especially those men who have lost their own Bibles through enemy action.

★ ★

From the little city of Ostuncalco, in the mountains of Guatemala, comes a grateful word from the native Indians there for the recent arrival of the New Testament in their language—the Mam (see *Bible Society Record* for February 1940, page 24, and July 1940, page 99). The greeting was translated into English by Rev. and Mrs. H. Dudley Peck, whose prodigious labors through many years



Rev. and Mrs. Peck with, left to right, William Jay, Elinor Ford, Paul Dudley, and Dorothy Jean in front.

brought the Mam language into written form, and gave these mountain people the Scriptures in their native tongue. We reproduce here a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Peck and their four children which accompanied their recent Christmas greeting to the Bible House. The Mam Indian message is in part as follows:

We thank first of all our Heavenly Father for his love and blessings, and then our brethren for their pains which they have taken in publishing "The New Testament" in our language.

Its arrival on the field was an occasion of great rejoicing for all of us, because we have the good fortune of listening to the Word of God in our own tongue.

We are all much interested now in learning to read in Mam in the worship services and in the home of each brother, and the children can listen to the life of Christ with understanding.

★ ★

In a letter received in December, M. Louis Brunet, assistant general secretary of the Église Réformée de France in Nîmes, writes:

I beg you to convey to the American Bible Society our heartiest thanks for this great quantity of Holy Scriptures thus placed at the disposal of our churches and various gospel or mission societies.

It is nearly impossible, indeed, in the present circumstances, to get Bibles in the "unoccupied zone." The Synodal Bible, published in Paris by the Société Biblique de France, is almost out of print, and the specimens that are left are reserved to the need of the "occupied zone." A new edition is being prepared, but it is to be feared that it shall not come out until next Easter, owing to the lack of paper. We can order Bibles from Switzerland, but only in small quantities.

★ ★

Grateful acknowledgment has been received from the theological school of the Free Evangelical Church of Canton de Vaud in Switzerland, expressing appreciation for copies of the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures for use of theological students who are not able otherwise to pay for them.

★ ★

The American Bible Society Agency in Egypt reports on distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and portions to Italian war prisoners in that country and in the Sudan, others in Uganda, still others in Capetown. In these distributions, books in Amharic, Arabic, and Galla were included. The

(Continued on page 27)

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 87

February 1942

Number 2

Urgency and Emergency

By Eric M. North

IT used to be said that the Bible Society is never without a war or a revolution somewhere in its work. But never before has it faced wars in which so many of its areas are affected. Never has it had so many embattled frontiers that it *must* cross, and now, our own American borders embattled as well!

How the tension of struggle comes down upon us!—of concern for the nation and the nations, and anxiety for staffs beleaguered by war: the Fongers in Manila, the Franklins in Bangkok, the Hudspeths and Hobbs in Shanghai, the Lins in Chungking, the Raos in Kunming, D. P. Wong in Hongkong, G. K. Smith in Chengtu, the Amblads in Kalgan, Dr. Mayer and the Tanakas in Tokyo, Dr. Cohen Stuart in Bandoeng, Lyman MacCallum in Istanbul, the Bells in Beirut, the Athanassians in Cairo, G. Kladis in starving Athens, the Popoffs in Bulgaria, our British colleagues in London, the Rutgers in Amsterdam, and the fellow workers, colporteurs, printers, clerks, and translators everywhere! Ah, reader, will you pray God for their safety and continued power for Christian service?

Then comes also another very different tension. It is the sharpened knowledge that we have in the Book both the message millions need as they face death, and the message which, in the world's hands, and heeded by it, would remove the pestilence of war. We *must* deliver it in spite of barriers! No barrier is so great as the ignorance and indifference and inaccessibility of multitudes of American Christians whose sacrificial help the Bible needs now! You who are giving sacrificially for its spread, we do not appeal to you again, save for your prayer and your retelling of the story, that the Society's income may somehow rise to meet mankind's heart hunger for the Bible.

A year and a half ago the Society launched its call for an "Emergency" fund in addition to its "regular" work. The "emergency" work represents new work in which the Society has not been engaged or work exceptionally expanded by war conditions:

the effort to keep alive the publication of Scriptures on the continent of Europe; the taking over of most of the work of the British Society there; the supply of Scriptures to millions of prisoners of war on four continents, and of hundreds of thousands of Testaments to chaplains for our own armed forces; the support of the work of the Dutch Bible Society in the Netherlands Indies; the printing in the U. S. A. of Scriptures hitherto printed in London for Latin America and for a dozen African tribes. "Emergencies" that must be met outside our "regular" work.

Nor can the "regular" work be reduced to facilitate the "emergency" work. For there are great "urgencies" in the Society's regular work quite comparable to those outside. In China, Shanghai, our principal printing center, is cut off by the Japanese Army from western China, and by the Japanese Navy from supplies of paper from abroad and from exportation of Scriptures to the Rangoon end of the Burma Road. This, when the demand for Bibles and Testaments is greater than ever in China's history! New printing centers must be established. New difficulties must be faced in the Japanese occupation of Manila and Bangkok—but the work must go on! Throughout Latin America the call for Scriptures continues to exceed the supply; for the Christian enterprise such an opportunity unmet is a serious defeat. In the United States again and again in rural counties one tenth of the homes are found Bibleless. What a time to supply them when the sense of human need for divine help is stronger than ever! Though the "emergency" work represents great emergencies, the "regular" work is crowded with many "urgencies" and some emergencies also.

The story is made graphic on pages 24 and 25. Study the map, and your horizons of mind and soul will be lifted. You will find yourself praying the Lord of the harvest that he send forth laborers into the harvest. When the grain is ripe, then is the time to reap.

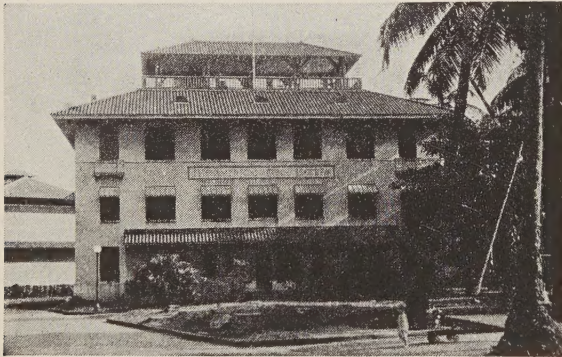
They Took It upon Themselves

We reprint here the 1941 Christmas greeting from the Secretary of the Caribbean Agency

By R. R. Gregory

TWENTY-ONE years of service as Secretary of the Caribbean Agency of the American Bible Society has brought me in close contact with men and women who have taken it upon themselves in his name to do worth-while things for the Lord.

There was Don Guillermo, as the Cakchiquel Indians called him. In the midst of his student days he left Occidental College, and went to Central America as a colporteur. He was in dead earnest, and, as a colporteur, was unusually successful. The spirit of the pioneer was in him. He saw a great need, and gave God a chance to use him. In 1931 the New Testament in Cakchiquel was made accessible to thousands of Indians in Guatemala. He figured that, if this could be done for this one Indian group, then like results might be obtained in other areas. He felt that young men and women must be



Cristobal Bible House

trained for this special work of translation. In 1934, Camp Wycliffe was founded in the Ozark Mountains of Arkansas. The first summer conference saw three students enrolled, and seven years later there were fifty-three. More than one hundred linguistically trained missionaries have gone out from this camp to work in fifteen different countries on four continents. Today in Mexico, thirty-eight of these workers are giving themselves to twenty-one Indian groups, with the purpose of providing them with a portion of the Scriptures in their own dialect.

Not so many years ago, a young lady in one of the New England colleges majored in Greek. She was then thinking of taking her five loaves and two fishes to help feed China's millions. However, the Lord

sent her, with a gifted husband, to Guatemala. Now after years of hardship and toil, she has been a big factor in making it possible to give to another large Indian group the New Testament in the Mam dialect.

Cinco Calles church, El Jardín de las Rosas, and the Bible institute are outstanding achievements of the Central American Mission in the capital city of Guatemala. Of course, these have to do with more than one individual. However, in unravelling this story one comes across a merchant who, some forty-five years ago, lived in a small Kansas town. This business man had a vision, and with the vision came a call. Like some in New Testament days, he sold all he had and followed the Lord. Four decades of service have been given to Guatemala, and the proceeds of his mercantile business, which ran into thousands of dollars, was invested in this foreign country. There were no dividend coupons to be clipped from stock bonds; for the dividends he received were changed lives. Yes, the story of the evangelization of Guatemala is a most interesting one, and a long list of names might easily be added of those who took it upon themselves to transmute vision into action.

And there is our newest colporteur recruit in Venezuela. I saw him almost every day of the weeks I spent in Caracas this year. In 1937 he received his first Bible. Three years ago he obtained employment with an Oil Company at Caripito in eastern Venezuela. As he read his Bible, he also became interested in the services of the mission chapel in that town. He believed, and was baptized; then desiring to share his joy with others, he took it upon himself to sell Scriptures from the missionary's supply. Through the missionary he learned of the Bible Society's headquarters at Caracas. He came, seeking not employment, but a larger supply of Scriptures to sell. Having saved his money when he had a job, he purchased the Scriptures and resold them. Our subagent seeing his love for the Word, and finding that he carried a letter of excellent character, approached him about full-time service as a colporteur. The last letter received from the subagent states that Sr. Guerrero (guerrero means warrior) is living up to his name, and truly making war for the Lord in the fanatical towns of the state of

Miranda. His glorious enthusiasm is unabated.

The war situation has created serious problems for the British and Foreign Bible Society's program for Bible distribution in Latin America. As a result, the American Bible Society has been called upon to assume a larger responsibility than ever for the countries south of the Rio Grande River. Latin America was never so open to the Bible as today. The last three years have been banner years for the circulation of Scriptures from this Agency, and evangelical work is growing everywhere. Can you

imagine evangelical mission work without the Bible? The present situation may mean a lot of things to a lot of people. To the Christian forces it should spell OPPORTUNITY.

This holiday season brings us to heart-searching events. At Christmas time we celebrate the coming of One who gave himself. Following Christmas, comes the New Year with its challenge to start anew, and *to take it upon ourselves* to fulfill the great commission which every Christian must heed faithfully in days like these.

• • •

It Happened at Allen, Kansas

When "Life" Magazine called the Bible House to say that it was sending a photographer to just one of the tens of thousands of churches that observed Universal Bible Sunday, the editors of the RECORD asked the District Secretary in whose area the church is located to attend also with his camera, and report the story for RECORD readers

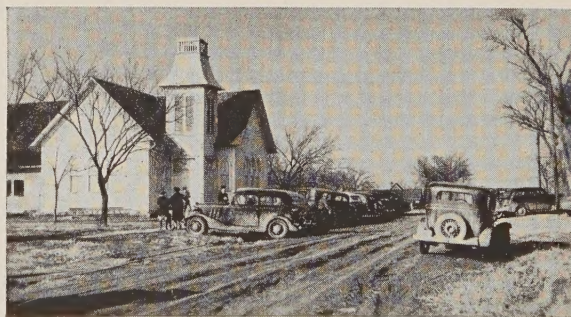
By Henry H. Ragatz

AN unusual event took place in Allen, Kansas, on Universal Bible Sunday. At 3:00 a.m. Rev. Robert B. Alexander, pastor of the Allen Methodist Church, stood before his congregation and started reading the first verse of the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. At 8:45 p.m. he finished reading the last verse of the last chapter of Revelation. During the almost eighteen hour interval seventy-one persons read aloud the complete New Testament of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In a cattle town in the flint hills of Kansas, with a population of 279, well over five hundred persons from twenty-nine towns attended the service.

War had been declared less than a week earlier, and its first impact was fresh in everyone's mind; but this, and all else, was forgotten as the panorama of the life and teachings of the Prince of Peace unfolded in that little church. During the early morning hours youngsters slept on benches in the Sunday-school room and kitchen, while their parents listened to the Word of God, appointed to be read in churches. Some listened eagerly, intent upon every word. Others appeared lost in inward contemplation. Still others followed the reading with their lips, or from Bibles held on their laps. On the platform the readers changed every fifteen minutes—parents, children, farmers, clerks, pastors, laymen. One was a lad of twelve who could hardly reach high enough to read from the lectern. Another

was a matriarch with white hair, who recited from memory.

The pulpit Bible used had been dedicated the previous Sunday evening. It was purchased by the boys and girls of the church, who had earned the money by chopping wood, running errands, and collecting waste paper. In its dedicatory service twenty-five of the children, gowned in white, carried the new Bible down the aisle in a candle-lit ceremony.



The Methodist Church at Allen, Kansas

These same young people, sixty in all, had breakfast at the church at 2:00 o'clock on Bible Sunday morning to be on hand for the opening. Forty ushers and twenty musicians served throughout the day.

This was the fifth in a proposed series of ten such annual occasions Mr. Alexander has arranged. The others were held in former parishes in McLouth and Scranton, both, like Allen, small Kansas towns.

For the six weeks preceding the date Pastor Alexander's sermons had been on, rather than from, the Bible. The making of the Bible, its history, its place in the story of mankind, its place in the world today, and the work of the American Bible Society,—all had been sermon topics. On the walls of the church were hung copies of almost every poster the Bible Society has ever printed, and each person received a piece of literature concerning its work, together with an envelope in which to make a contribution. A splendid offering was received for the Society.

Mr. Alexander serves a territory of almost two hundred square miles, preaching in two churches located in Allen and Bushong.

Mary Carr, of Scranton, said,

It was a great day in our church history.

Mrs. S. L. Feister, of McLouth, testified that it was the greatest day of her life; and John Roberts reported:

It gradually dawns that something is happening to and about one.

Walter F. Anderson, superintendent of the Swedish Mission Sunday School in Scranton, wrote:

I consider it an honor that I once had a small part in this program.

Bishop W. C. Martin wrote, in part,

Surely the emphasis on the Bible which you are giving is greatly needed in these days when so many of the foundations of life are shaken.

Mr. Alexander wrote months after the 1940 Bible Sunday service at McLouth, saying,

My church is a better church for having read the New Testament as they did. Our services have been crowded since Bible Sunday.

The influences radiate in widening circles: Governor Ratner sent his greetings, and a representative of *Life* was present, taking pictures.

Mrs. Mary Carr told me also the following story:

Last year I bought some chickens for my farm. Due

to a miscalculation, I had some small change left after paying for them. Rather than take the money, I took six "culls." These I marked for the American Bible Society.

Months later I found that a dog had been digging into the chicken yard, killing them. Altogether he killed over seventy; but those for the Society were not molested. This fall I sold them, and was able to send a check to the New York office for five dollars. The Lord prospers your work.

As long as there are people like the Reverend Robert Alexander, and like the many people who helped him, and like those who contributed to the Bible Sunday offering, the Word of God will go forth. In the dark days ahead more people must turn to His Word as the fountain of life, and the Bible will continue to be "the Light that shineth in the darkness."

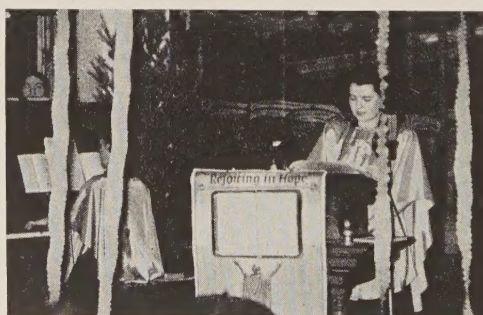
NOTE—Secretary Ragatz was not asked to attend this unusual service until a very few hours before it commenced. He drove six hundred miles to be on hand at the opening. At Pastor Alexander's request, Secretary Ragatz made a brief address, which we are glad to append here. He said:

At a time when in many parts of the world it is a crime to possess a Bible, let us give thanks to God that we can gather together in this house and unite in reading his Word. Today, December 14, is Universal Bible Sunday. It is a day when loyal Americans will turn to the Bible. We must realize that the history of the next fifty years will be determined by the doctrines of Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*, Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*—or the BIBLE.

America must become the arsenal of the Bible for the rest of the world. Realizing this responsibility, the American Bible Society is supplying Scriptures to every man in his own tongue. Three dollars will keep a colporteur in China for one month, during which time he will distribute one thousand volumes. Your gift of fifteen cents will furnish a United States soldier, sailor or airman with a pocket New Testament.

Will you help?

Reading the New Testament at Allen, Kansas. Left to right: Dr. Guy V. Hartman, district superintendent, Mary Jean Harris, Secretary Ragatz



Heard County and Its Bibles

By Benjamin H. Smith



FEW people in the United States have ever heard of Heard County, Georgia. It lies along the Alabama line, about fifty miles southwest of Atlanta. It is almost the geographical center of the American Bible Society's Southern District, comprising the states of Georgia, South Carolina, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. It is a completely rural area, its county seat and leading metropolis being a village of three hundred people. Few travelers have ever passed through Heard County; for there is not a mile of railroad in it, and no through auto road crosses or enters it. There is only one tiny strip of paved road of any sort. In its 285 square miles live a little less than 2,000 families, totaling 10,000 people, of whom about 6,300 are whites and 3,700 colored.

Racially, Heard County is America at her purest—there being only one foreign-born person in the county according to the latest United States Census.

Heard County lies in the heart of what is often called the Bible belt. What about the prevalence of Bibles in this purely rural, pure American county? New York asked me to find out, at the least possible expense and with the utmost thoroughness.

There was one man in the county supremely qualified to superintend the task, which I could have done personally only at great expense of time and money. His name is Rev. J. C. Adams, a mission pastor who has ministered in the county for more than ten years, and who serves nine of the county's churches. Pastor Adams is a well-trained man, having earned an M.A. degree, and rich in experience which qualifies him for survey work.

Nothing is done in a hurry in Heard County, and there was no reason why the Bible survey should I took plenty of time to instruct the pastor-superintendent in every detail of his task, so that the results should be as complete and as accurate as possible. The actual work of the canvass was carried out by members of Pastor Adams's nine churches, who were carefully trained for their work.

The canvassers carried with them copies of the Gospel of St. John, which they left at each home as they asked the question, "Do you have a readable Bible?" If there was no Bible, or if the only Bible was one with poor type, the name and address of the home was taken. If at any home a canvasser was unable to obtain the facts, Pastor Adams secured the data later in his personal follow-up survey.

Two thousand homes were included in the report. Of these there were 98 white homes and 132 colored without Bibles—a total of 230 or eleven and

one half percent Bibleless homes. We consider this a dark picture for native American rural homes in the very heart of the Bible belt. Subsequent surveys in other counties will, we hope, yield a brighter picture.

The Heard County survey was no mere academic affair. Pastor Adams, who superintended the canvassing, also agreed to see that every Bibleless home was visited in the interests of securing a readable Bible. This can be done without any excessive cost to the Society. After Pastor Adams has visited the Bibleless homes with his Scriptures, the Atlanta office will correspond with all those who did not buy from him, offering them our inexpensive Bibles and, if need be, making a grant of the book.

There is an immense satisfaction in this sort of work; for it conforms, with so little variation, to the central purpose of the American Bible Society, whose concern is primarily to see that the Bible is supplied to those who otherwise would probably never be able or inclined to secure it.

Heard County, Georgia, may never become one of the important areas of our nation; but, with every home possessing and reading its Bible, it will be America at her best.

Postage Stamps for Emergency Need

In January 1941, an appeal for canceled stamps appeared in the **RECORD**. As usual the loyal friends of the Society responded. There came boxes of stamps, old envelopes, whole collections, and, in some instances, single unused U. S. stamps of high denominations.

All these are being marketed through reputable dealers for the Society's Emergency Fund.

For the further guidance of those wishing to send in stamps for resale the following general observations are made:

Current U. S. Commemoratives are desirable, as are the following denominations: 4½, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, and 24 cents. Stamps should be cut off the envelopes, except in the case of envelopes prior to 1890, with about ¼ inch margin of paper.

When sending foreign stamps, please cut from the envelopes, except when censored or containing unusual cancellations.

NOTE: Uncancelled U. S. stamps are always worth at least their face value and often, as in the case of older issues, much more.

When sending in stamps, please do not ask about appraisals or the proceeds from an individual lot. All stamps are put together for sorting, cleaning, packaging, etc., before resale.

Please send your stamps to: The Secretaries, American Bible Society, Park Avenue & 57th Street, New York, N. Y.

URGENCY AND

The American Bible Society's

Numbers in squares **1** indicate regular year-after-year work.

3 District offices throughout the U.S. endeavoring to supply material needed to tell the story and raise funds for urgent work and emergency work.

1 Scriptures in English and Eskimo supplied to Alaska.

4 A.B.S. supplying B.F.B.S. in Canada with English and other Scriptures formerly supplied from London.

2 A.B.S. supplying Scriptures for German prisoners in Canada and interned German sailors, etc., in U.S.

27 Scriptures for London, printed in Geneva office.

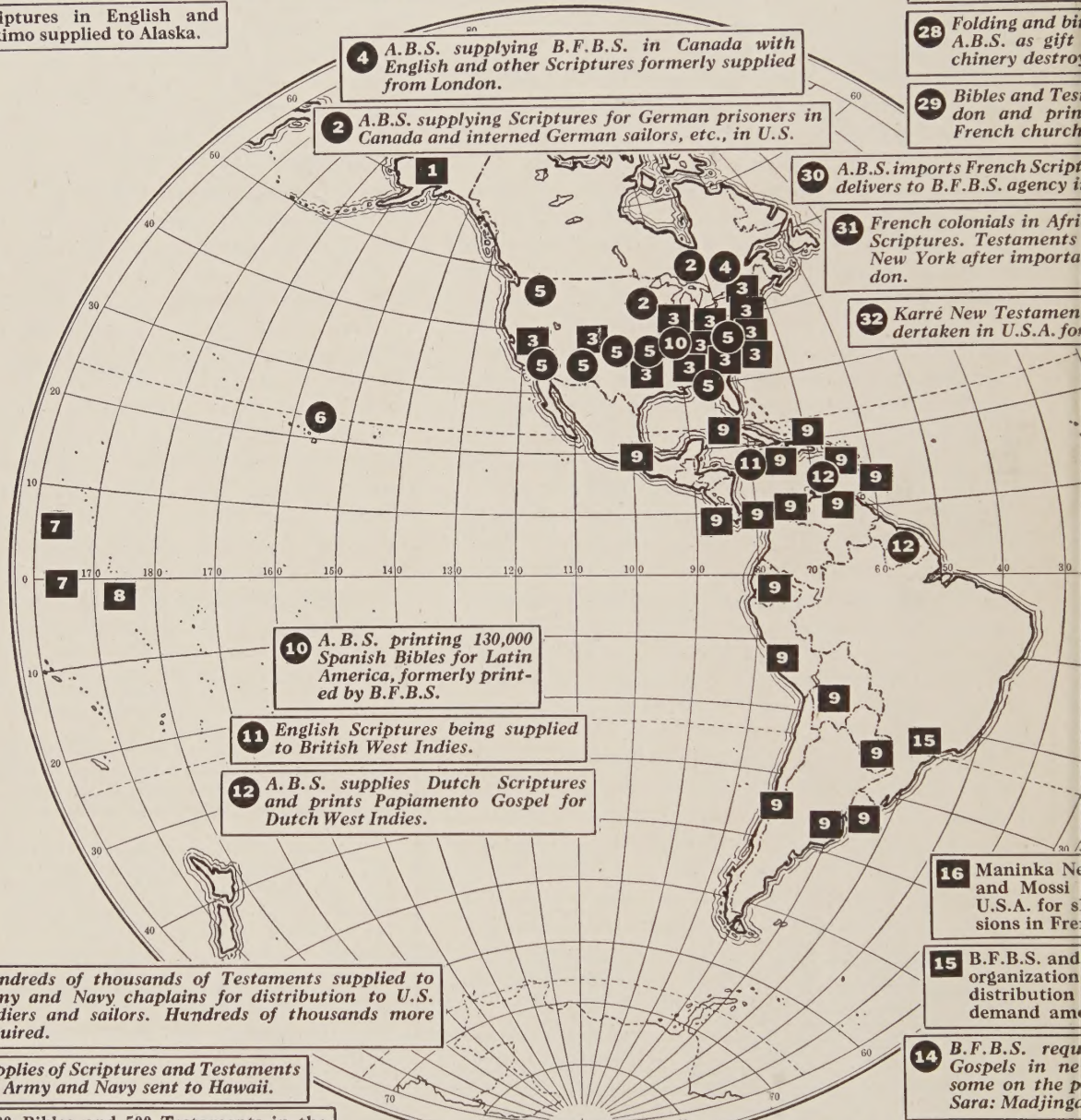
28 Folding and binding of Scriptures as gift chinery destroyed.

29 Bibles and Testaments for French churches.

30 A.B.S. imports French Scriptures delivered to B.F.B.S. agency in New York after importation.

31 French colonials in Africa Scriptures. Testaments New York after importation.

32 Karré New Testament undertaken in U.S.A. for



10 A. B. S. printing 130,000 Spanish Bibles for Latin America, formerly printed by B.F.B.S.

11 English Scriptures being supplied to British West Indies.

12 A. B. S. supplies Dutch Scriptures and prints Papiamentu Gospel for Dutch West Indies.

5 Hundreds of thousands of Testaments supplied to Army and Navy chaplains for distribution to U.S. soldiers and sailors. Hundreds of thousands more required.

6 Supplies of Scriptures and Testaments for Army and Navy sent to Hawaii.

8 1,200 Bibles and 500 Testaments in the language of the Gilbert Islanders are in New York awaiting shipment via Suva.

7 Scriptures in stock in Nauru and Kusaie.

9 A.B.S. joint agencies with B.F.B.S. in Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, and A.B.S. agencies in Peru, Ecuador, Mexico, West Indies, Central America, Argentina, and Paraguay find a demand for Scriptures from churches and missionaries larger than they can supply.

16 Maninka New Testament and Mossi U.S.A. for missions in French West Africa.

15 B.F.B.S. and organization distribution demand American.

14 B.F.B.S. require Gospels in new languages on the part of Sara: Madjanga.

13 Bulu Bibles, Latin New Testament to New York, missions in Africa printed in U.S.

EMERGENCY

under present war conditions

Numbers in circles **2** indicate work undertaken because of the general war emergency.

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o Africa.

33 Assistance given to former work of B.F.B.S. in Warsaw, Vienna, Prague, Rome, Budapest, and Bucharest.

34 Slovak and Hungarian Scriptures being reprinted by A.B.S. subsidy.

35 Bible Lands Agency, North, at work in Syria and Iraq though costs are skyrocketing. New Turkish Bible printed in Istanbul during war.

36 Athens office open, but no Bibles. Sofia office closed. Work being done quietly.

37 Great demand for Bibles and Testaments in Free China. Supplies quickly exhausted. Shipments, formerly received by Burma Road trucks, by air, and by obscure routes, may now be cut off. Printing in process in Chengtu. Chungking Bible House bombed but standing.

38 Bible Society offices in Occupied China continue distribution just as far as they can secure supplies. Conditions since December 7 not known. Staff believed safe.

39 A.B.S. gives Japan Bible Society its Tokyo building, the income of which maintains Scripture publication and distribution in Japan in spite of war.

40 Truk and Mortlock Scriptures in stock here, published by A.B.S.

17 Bible Lands Agency, South, maintains distribution in Palestine, Egypt and Sudan.

18 Arrangements made to print Chinese Scriptures and transport them to Free China via Burma Road, as Shanghai is cut off.

19 Italian Scriptures for war prisoners shipped from New York to India and Egypt, and from Egypt to Uganda and Capetown.

20 B.F.B.S., London, telegraphs: "Madagascar without Bibles. Can you help?" Investigation of possibilities begun at once.

21 Nyore and Ragoli New Testaments printed in U.S.A. and shipped to American missions in Kenya.

22 Zulu Bibles and Testaments printed in New York for B.F.B.S., shipped to South Africa. Tswa Bibles and Testaments printed in London by A.B.S. for B.F.B.S., shipped to missions in Africa.

23 Bible House and Agency in Manila printing and distributing whole Bibles in 8 Filipino languages, and Testaments and Gospels in others. Manila now controlled by Japanese Army.

24 American translation of Ponape New Testament revised by a German missionary, published in England by the A.B.S., distributed through Tokyo by Japanese missionaries.

25 A.B.S. administers and supports work in place of Dutch B.S. in the Netherlands Indies, providing Scriptures in a score of languages for more than 1,500,000 Christians.

26 Bible House and staff in Bangkok cut off from headquarters. Normally distributes Thai and Chinese Scriptures throughout Thailand.

The Primacy of the Holy Scriptures

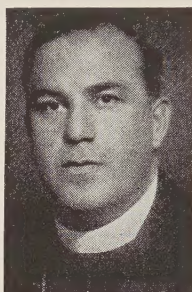
Universal Bible Sunday found the Pacific Coast in a state of alarm incident to the beginning of the war in the Pacific. Radio service was drastically affected; but the courtesy of the Don Lee Network to carry the voice of the Episcopal bishop of California to the vast Pacific coast audience on the eve of the observance was not withdrawn. The RECORD is glad to include the timely script in this issue

By Bishop Karl Morgan Block

HOW fortuitous it was that the Sunday following the surprise attack of Japan that plunged us into war had been dedicated to a recognition of the primacy of the Holy Scriptures—Universal Bible Sunday. For the Bible has been and must ever be the spiritual arsenal of our democracy. Our fathers found in its inspired pages an adequate light to guide them as they faced life's inescapable problems and tensions. Their consciences were activated by its principles; their imaginations quickened by its tales of consuming human interest; their lives lifted to new levels of courage, tranquillity, and sacrifice.

It may be fairly said that this divine library has, throughout the centuries, been the primal force that makes for righteousness, undergirding those moral incentives that make a nation virile, brave, and secure. For here is told the story of the spiritual hegira of an ancient people filled with a developing God-consciousness, who moved from darkness to light, from ignorance to knowledge, from failure to the higher success. They measured the full sweep of life's perspectives; they plumbed the depths of human anguish; they found the durable satisfactions of life and an amazing tranquillity of spirit under the pressures of man's inhumanity and cruel circumstance. Difficulty, to them, was the atmosphere of miracle.

They learned in the convincing school of experience that the present can only be interpreted in the long perspectives of the past. By the same token, we moderns discover, in the rich leaf mould of Biblical teaching, the growth of those influences that have made the enduring values of so much of our civilization as is worthy of the name. So, it may fairly be said that there is no single literary and spiritual influence in our English-speaking world comparable to that exerted through the years by our Bible. It is both the foundation of our modern English literature and of our Anglo-Saxon civilization. What is more significant, the Bible



Bishop Block

gives us a supreme revelation of the human heart, and of life touched by the spirit of God.

Yet, this book is known to many today only through hearsay. Due, perhaps, to the hurried pace at which we live and our eager desire to be contemporaneous, we find too little time for leisure and thoughtful reading. The printing presses have deluged us with material, and "best sellers" are forced upon our attention by the able techniques of modern salesmanship.

It is no essential criticism of Biblical insights and values that some ignore, and others are indifferent to, its age-long appeal. Many are today impervious to the lure of art, of music, of poetry, when expressed in their best classical forms.

The founding fathers of our republic discovered in the Good Book the ideals that gave birth to our nation. They conceived of democracy as the political expression of a central Christian affirmation—the dignity and eternal worth of the human soul. Upon this sovereign truth, they built our essential freedoms. Respect for the rights of minorities, regard for the underprivileged and dispossessed, a determination that one man's good shall not be another man's hurt, an essential spirit of good sportsmanship,—all stem from a literature that looks at life under the aspect of eternity. We can trace in this Book of Books the ideas and ideals that undergird our democratic way of life. Behind this democratic process is the Jewish-Christian tradition. It has been given us as a sacred trust—a legacy we are now called upon to defend against the brutal ideologies of dictatorships. We have learned with travail of soul that the democratic privileges we enjoy are not socially inherited, and that eternal vigilance must ever be the price of liberty.

They doubtless found assurance in the Bible's great conception of God as active in human history. They must have learned from this book that the judgments of time are always moral; that evil has within it the seeds of its own destruction. Through

the Bible's profound affirmations, they faced life without fear, and death without fainting. All students of these sacred writings have learned that men and nations are accountable to God above all other loyalties; that God loves, and God cares; that the world is a family—for weal or for woe; that mankind is a brotherhood under our Father God. It will never be well with any of us, until it is well with all of us. As never before mankind needs to return to the source book of its richest insights, its soundest ideals, and its securest achievements.

Supremely the Bible provides us with a yardstick of all moral and spiritual values in the life and teachings of Christ Jesus. In him the pattern of perfection is revealed; for here is etched the very portrait of God himself. In this time of crisis we must, as a nation, return to our deserted altars, and read regularly and thoughtfully this too often neglected spiritual guide. Secularized education, with its vastly extended curricula, finds no place even for the reading of the Bible without comment, and has thus done us a vast disservice. "The soul of education is the education of the soul." It is futile to attempt to interpret the classics of our English tradition to school children who have no knowledge of the allusions and backgrounds which so vastly influenced the great minds of those whose books we cherish. But it is far more tragic, if the youth of this great land are not exposed to the moral education that created the American way of life.

Obviously, the mere possession of this book is in no sense ultimate. The Bible is vocal only to its friends. Familiarity is the key that unlocks its richest treasures. Some may have an apprehension of God, and the courage to meet life's trials and

tests by an instinct that seems almost native. But most of us are pedestrian. We learn line upon line, precept by precept, here a little, there a little. As we have recently and painfully discovered, emergency does not wait upon preparation. The human mind stored with the spiritual resources of the saints of the past has an available armory with which to meet all the exigencies of life.

Thus it is more than fitting that the American Bible Society, in line with its long and honorable tradition, should sponsor Universal Bible Sunday, and plead for a return to the reading of the Bible as one of the principal means of achieving spiritual defense. Tomorrow, December 14, is the day set apart for this observance. To implement it, I am asking every member of this unseen audience, at the close of this broadcast, to make a moral resolve to spend at least some time tomorrow in a reverent and thoughtful reading and meditation upon some verse, paragraph or book from these Holy Writings. The Society will gladly make available the Bible text, through your gift, to refugees or prisoners and other victims of the world conflict. This can be provided in almost any one of the more than one thousand tongues into which it has been translated. It is part of the essential equipment of our soldier and sailor boys.

Let my final appeal be in the words of our last war President, Woodrow Wilson, "I ask every man and woman in this audience that, from this night on, they will realize that part of the destiny of America lies in their daily perusal of this great book of revelation; that if they would see America free and pure, they will make their own spirits free and pure by the baptism of the Holy Scriptures."

(Continued from page 18)

following are quotations from grateful acknowledgments:

In the name of Italian war wounded I beg you to transmit my warmest thanks to the person who has had the good thought of making the donation of these books. You will be glad to know that the wounded have shown real joy in receiving them.

I am deeply grateful for the valuable parcel of Gospels. This is the only literature which most of the Italian prisoners possess, and I know that they are read a good deal. Italian officers seem to take great delight in these books.

The prisoners flocked round me for them, and some literally tried to tug them out of my hands. They were unspeakably glad for the books.

★ ★

In a cablegram from London dated December 11, Rev. Arthur Wilkinson, general secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, says:

Committee sends warm appreciation of splendid endeavors being made by your Society in spite of wartime confusion to provide Scriptures for the stricken peoples of Europe.

★ ★

Chaplain F. Herbert Moehlmann, of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, writes:

You have been so very, very good to me, that I find it difficult to put in words the truly grateful emotions which fill my heart. A thousand thanks for all the fine New Testaments and Bibles you have sent me. Yes, you may rest assured that they are conscientiously distributed.

... Many hearty thanks and God bless you for the wonderful assistance you are giving us representatives of the church in the Army.

★ ★

A veteran war prisoner somewhere in Europe exclaimed when given a Bible:

This is the first piece of printed matter I have had in eighteen months!

Any Young People's Society Can Do This

Each month the Bible Society Record carries a short article suggesting how the emphasis upon the importance of the Bible, better acquaintance with it, and its more rewarding use may be nurtured in the life of any church. In these paragraphs a young people's society reports a successful evening service, employing a radio technique

By William Folprecht

RECENTLY, when our young people's society was asked to conduct the evening service during the absence of our pastor, we decided to present a program that would be different from the customary service. Accordingly, the writer, who is president of the society, communicated with the American Bible Society and secured one of their three free lectures—the one entitled “The Book Goes Forth.” Each of these “lectures” consists of about forty-six colored stereopticon slides, with an accompanying booklet describing the pictures.

We decided to incorporate some “radio technique” into the showing. Employing the services of Joseph Wallace, a member of our society who has a rich bass voice, Margaret Folprecht, the writer's wife, and Edward Fundis, secretary-treasurer of our society, we proceeded to present the lecture.

After the first part of the program, which was a regular worship service with hymns, Scripture, and prayer, we dimmed the lights and flashed on the screen, which we drew in front of the pulpit, a slide which had been made of one of the Christian Endeavor billboards in our neighborhood. As this appeared, the reader, standing at one of the microphones we use in our hard-of-hearing equipment in the church auditorium, said: “Christian Endeavor, in collaboration with the American Bible Society, presents—.” Then the slide was faded out, and the title slide of the lecture proper flashed on the screen. As the slide appeared, the writer finished: “The Book Goes Forth!”

With this on the screen, Joseph Wallace sang from the choir loft one verse of that beautiful old hymn, “I love to tell the story.” When he finished, the writer proceeded to describe the slides that followed.

When a picture of Helen Keller was flashed before the congregation, instead of the “lecturer” reading her testimony concerning the Scriptures, Margaret Folprecht did so; since it seemed more appropriate for a girl's voice to give the lines.

After this interlude, the writer continued with his reading from the book supplied with the lecture pictures. At the halfway mark he paused, and our soloist sang a verse of “Tell me the old, old story.”

The description of the slides then proceeded.

When we came to a point where there were several slides showing some Chinese, and the lecture book quoted a conversation between a Chinese river pirate and the colporteur who sold him a Gospel, Ed Fundis stood at the microphone and read the pirate's lines, while the writer took the part of the colporteur, thus dramatizing this portion.

Following the lecture with the last slide remaining on the screen, our singer concluded the program with one verse of “Wonderful words of life.”

We feel that we have discovered a new medium to make more interesting the presentation of facts through the eye gate, in conjunction with the ear, and from comments received pertaining to this program, others unanimously agree.

This article appeared originally in the September-October 1941 issue of *Church Business*, the publication of the Duplex Envelope Company of Richmond, Virginia, and is used with their permission. The American Bible Society offers three stereopticon lectures with about fifty slides each, the other two entitled “The Old Book Making New Friends,” a description of the general work of translating, publishing, and distributing the Scriptures, and “Every Man in His Own Tongue,” a lecture on the amazing spread of the Scriptures into more than 1,000 languages. Write the Society at its nearest District office for other visual aids including foreign-language cards, picture displays, vocafilm lectures, English Bible facsimile pages, pageants and dramas.

Don't Waste Paper

THE war is upon us with all its stern restrictions. What do you do with your copy of the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD when you have read it? If it were an advertising sheet whose value was gone tomorrow, even then you should give it to the Boy Scouts for paper conservation. But it is not commercial advertising. Why not share it with some one else,—possibly your pastor or a Sunday-school worker?

Bible Sunday at Camp Wolters

THE American Bible Society has offered to supply a Bible to every one of the hundreds of chapels in the Army camps of the country. The Secretary of the Southwestern District celebrated Bible Sunday by presenting six Bibles in a great Texas camp.

Many camps observed Universal Bible Sunday December 14. One of the most unique of these celebrations was held at Camp Wolters, Texas. This camp is the Army's largest replacement center, where approximately 16,500 men at a time are put through the thirteen weeks' intensive training period upon induction or enlistment in the Army, after which they are sent to other units for more advanced training.

Thirteen chaplains, headed by Lt. Col. Cecil H. Lang, serve the men of Camp Wolters. This corps of chaplains is fully alive to the tremendous responsibilities and opportunities that are theirs in looking after the spiritual needs of these new recruits. Every man is interviewed by one of the chaplains, who learns from him his church background and preference, and any special qualification he may have for religious service. A post card is then mailed by the chaplain to the man's nearest of kin, stating that he has been interviewed, and that everything that can be done for his spiritual and moral welfare will be done; and also asking for encouragement from home in assisting the chaplain in his efforts to help the man spiritually while in camp.

By invitation, Rev. Frank W. Langham, Secretary of the American Bible Society's Southwestern District, visited Camp Wolters Sunday, December 14, and presented the lectern Bibles given by the Society for use in the six beautiful new chapels. In making the presentation, Mr. Langham called attention to the place of the Scriptures in forming and nourishing the great

spiritual ideas and ideals of the American people. The senior chaplain in each chapel accepted the lectern Bible with appropriate words of appreciation. A brief but beautiful dedication service followed each presentation. Mr. Langham also preached in two of the five chapels serving white soldiers, and in the one serving our colored troops there. All services were well attended, and the Secretary reports a very deep interest on the part of the men.

Although it was impossible to get all the chaplains together for a picture, the one above shows Mr. Langham holding one of the lectern Bibles in the midst of several chaplains, and an average-size group attending one of the chapel services.

With vastly increased enrollment in our military forces ahead of us, there will be a growing demand for the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Our men in the Service reveal a seriousness and understanding of their high mission as front-line defenders of our nation, and what it stands for. They are turning with open hearts and eager minds to the fountain source of our great freedoms. These men want God in their lives, and they bear witness that they find him in the Bible.

Local congregations may do their part to make the Bible available to our men in uniform by:

1. Seeing that every man who leaves the community has a Testament to take with him;
2. By purchasing Testaments and portions to supply the Scripture needs of men in camps adjacent to the community;
3. By securing gifts to send to the American Bible Society for the distribution of Testaments by chaplains to men who otherwise would not receive them.



Left to right: With Secretary Langham in center, Chaplains S. M. Hutchison, A. W. Blaine, Cecil H. Lang, John T. Donnelly



EDITORIAL COMMENT



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis Carr Stifler, Editorial Secretary
Bible House, Park Avenue and
57th Street, New York



VOL. 87 FEBRUARY 1942 No. 2

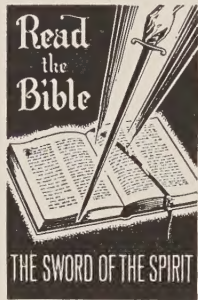
To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

THE Christian Scriptures will continue to circulate in Japan under the direction of the Japan Bible Society, which recently took over the combined work of the British, Scottish, and American Societies. The circulation for the first half of 1941 shows a marked increase in the distribution of whole Bibles, but a reduction in Testaments and portions. The portions are distributed principally by colporteurs, whose work has been much restricted since the war in China began. The figures for 1941 to June 30 were for whole Bibles 12,112, as compared with 18,465 in the whole year of 1940; Testaments, 27,526; and portions 144,235, as compared respectively with 70,339 and 727,287 in the whole year 1940.

THE Society's West Indies Agency, which late in the year came under the vigorous guiding hand of Secretary James Innes, is the first to report its distribution for 1941. It is most encouraging, showing a substantial increase in Bibles, Testaments, and portions, with a total of 132,142 volumes—which is twenty-eight percent above the circulation of 1940.

SINCE December 7, 1941, the American Bible Society has been sponsoring a half-hour devotional

program at 7 a.m. EST., each Sunday morning, over WNEW New York City. This powerful station, with a wave length of 1080 kc., may be heard by millions of people in the metropolitan district and surrounding area. The hour is a particularly convenient one for defense workers and others whose shifts result in their finding leisure at this time to listen. RECORD readers in the New York area are asked to write Station WNEW for their courtesy in allotting this period to the Society. The address of the station is 501 Madison Avenue, New York City.



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THE cover picture entitled "The Hope of the World" is the work of Mr. E. Y. Cuffe of Los Angeles, California, who produced it as a result of reading a report of the 125th anniversary celebration of the American Bible Society. After seeing it win several first places in photographic salons throughout the country, he presented it to the Society with rights of reproduction for the few dollars involved in its production costs, rather than avail himself of the larger sum which a commercial use of the picture would have brought him.

January Meeting of the Board

THE ninth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-sixth year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, January 8, 1942, at 3:30 p.m., Vice President Frank H. Mann in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary North.

The minutes of the eight stated meetings of the year were read and approved.

The death of Dr. William P. Stevenson was reported, and the following memorial minute adopted:

William Paxton Stevenson, LL.D.

In the death of William Paxton Stevenson on December 30, 1941, in his eighty-seventh year, the American Bible Society lost one of its most faithful and honored members. Mr. Stevenson became a member of the Board of Managers of the Society in 1925, and attended its meetings with consistent regularity.

He was a member of the Foreign Agencies Committee, and served with devotion and distinction. He retired from active business many years ago, and thereafter devoted himself unsparingly to many good causes. Chief among his interest, in addition to the American Bible Society, were Princeton Theological Seminary, of which he was a trustee; the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of America, of which he was a member; and the Board of National Missions in New Jersey, of which he was treasurer. He was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church of Roselle, New Jersey. His particular interest was in the missionary program of the church, and through mature and sound judgment and consecrated service he made an important contribution to this cause through the various boards on which he served.

We record this minute in honor of his memory, and extend to his son and daughter our sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Mr. Henry Greaves was assigned to the Committee on Finance.

The minutes of the standing committees were presented and approved, and their recommendations adopted.

A greeting to the Chicago Bible Society, which is holding its one hundred and second annual meeting on January 23, was authorized.

The meeting was adjourned.

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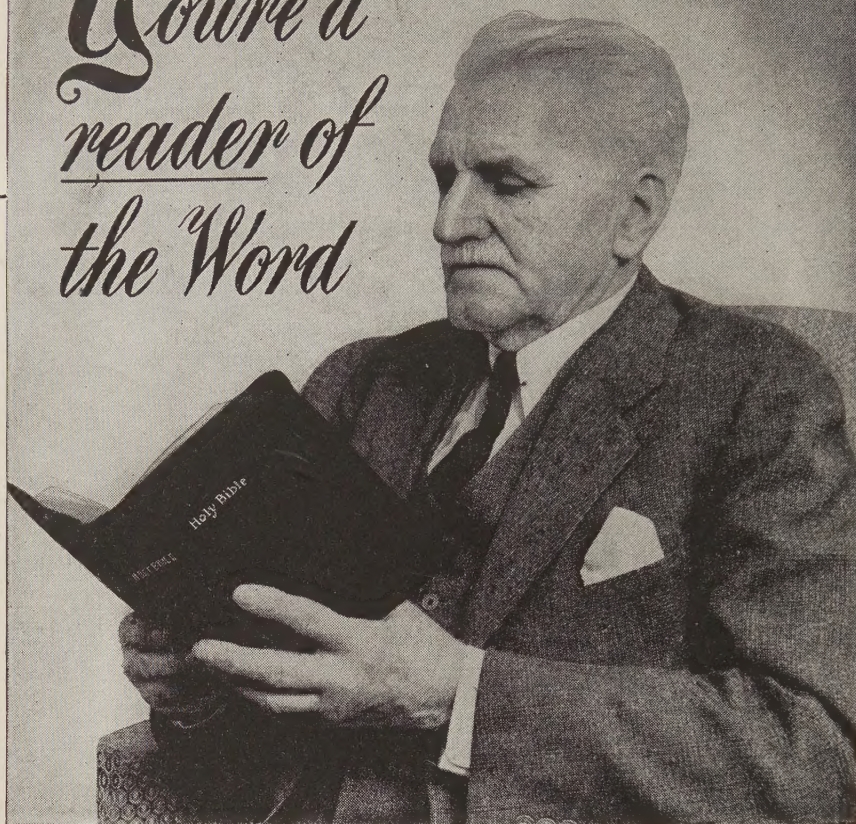
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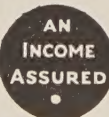
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